standing on issues of mutual interest were the major thrust of the discussions held between Prime Minister and Prime Minister Takeshita of Japan recently.

(b) to (d) Our bilateral relations have acquired greater momentum and content as a result of this visit. The Japanese Government have expressed their willingness to increase economic cooperation with India and shown interest in assisting in the modernisation of the Steel Plant at Burnpur. Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for the cooperation extended by Japan in India's economic development.

Manufacture of Dornier-228 Aircraft

393. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to abandon the manufacture of Dornier-228 which was planned to meet the needs of the Defence forces and the third line airliner Vayudoot services;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for abandoning the manufacture of Dornier aircraft in the country; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to equip the Defence forces with the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Concentration of Troops by Pakistan in the Pak-held Jammu and Kashmir area

394. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan have intensified its military activity and concentrated more troops in the Pak-held area of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) what are the counter measures taken by Government to meet the challenges posed by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir border recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government have seen some media reports in this regard but have no information to suggest any unusual movement or concentration of Pakistani troops in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

(b) Government keep a close watch on all developments having a bearing on our security with a view to taking appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Involvement of the private sector in space projects

395. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to involve the Private Sector in a larger way in space projects in view of the increasing problems in the procurement of critical components for space programmes; and

(b) if so, the details of the Private sector companies that have been involved in the space programmes so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Private sector industries are already being associated to a significant extent with the manufacture of materials/components/systems and subsystems that go into launch vehicles and satellites, as well as into ground systems for testing, launching, telemetry, tracking, satellite data reception, processing and dissemination.

Greater participation of private sector industries in India's Space projects is envisaged through the following initiatives:

—Promotion of 'Space divisions' in more industries;

—Concerted cooperation with high-technology sectors in industry including the small scale and medium scale;

—Promotion of industrial 'Consortia' for major tasks;